

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 L-03 PRS-01 SCS-03 DHA-02

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----- 018776

O R 190855Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8177

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, UK, NG

SUBJ: REUTERS CORRESPONDENT COLIN FOX AND FAMILY

REF (A) COTONOU 313 (NOTAL), (B) LAGOS 1966 (NOTAL),

1. HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MRS MARIANNE FOX. ENTIRE FAMILY ARRIVED SAFELY IN COTONOU EARLY EVENING FEB 17. THEY WILL PROCEED TO ABIDJAN AND MONROVIA AS SOON AS FUNDS ARRIVE FROM ENGLAND AND LOCAL ENTRY STATUS REGULARIZED. SHE ASKED WE PASS ON TO THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HER APPRECIATION FOR ITS CONCERN OVER HER FAMILY'S SAFETY.

2. MRS FOX RELATED THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THEIR DEPORTATION FROM NIGERIA. ON MONDAY, FEB 16, SHE AND DAUGHTER WERE DRIVEN TO BENIN BORDER IN NIGERIAN POLICE CAR. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY CLOSED POLICE VAN, WHICH SHE DID NOT LEARN UNTIL THE NEXT DAY CARRIED MR FOX. BENINESE AUTHORITIES AT THE BORDER REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE FOXES. THEY WERE RETURNED TO LAGOS AND WERE KEPT THE NIGHT AT DODAN BARRACKS. ON TUESDAY THE NIGERIANS WERE AGAIN REFUSED PERMISSION TO DEPORT THEM TO BENIN. RATHER THEN RETURNING THEM TO LAGOS, NIGERIAN POLICE DROVE DOWN SOME BACK ROAD TO A SMALL STREAM WHERE THEY EMBARKED THE FOXES IN A CANOE AND ILLEGALLY EXPELLED THEM INTO BENIN. CANOE DROPPED THEM AT A VILLAGE FROM WHERE THEY WERE ABLE TO FIND A TAXI TO TAKE THEM TO COTONOU. MR FOX IS REGULARIZING

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ENTRY STATUS WITH BENINESE AUTHORITIES WHO, ACCORDING TO MRS

FOX, HAVE BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE.
CHESHES

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Message Attributes

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